



# The State Bar *of California*

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**OPEN SESSION  
AGENDA ITEM  
APRIL, 2019  
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS ITEM O-102**

**DATE:** April 17, 2019

**TO:** Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

**FROM:** Amy C. Nuñez, Director, Admissions

**SUBJECT:** Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California 2018 Annual Report

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## **BACKGROUND**

Following conclusion of each calendar year, it is customary that an Annual Report of the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) be prepared. This report is typically presented at the first Committee meeting of the new year. However, the implementation of the Admissions Information Management System (AIMS) impacted our ability to gather and validate the data in a timely fashion.

## **DISCUSSION**

Attached is the "Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California 2018 Annual Report" for your review.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee receive and file the report and, finally, be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

## **PROPOSED MOTION**

If the Committee agrees with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move that the "Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California 2018 Annual Report", in the form attached hereto be received and filed and that it be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.



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## **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS  
OF  
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA**

## **Committee of Bar Examiners/Office of Admissions Administration Activities**

- In 2018, the names of 4,975 applicants were placed on motions to the Supreme Court of California certifying their eligibility for admission to practice law in California, compared to 5,873 names that were on motions in 2017.
- Eleven (11) presentations on admission requirements were made by State Bar staff to California Law School students.

### ***Examinations Activities***

- The California Bar Examination, which includes both the General Bar Examination and Attorneys' Examination, was administered to 13,907 law students and attorneys admitted in other states and foreign jurisdictions (5,307 in February and 8,600 in July), which is slightly higher than those who were tested in 2017, which was a total of 14,076. The total number of applications filed in 2018 for the examination was higher than 2017, as 15,754 law school graduates and attorneys filed applications in 2018 compared to 15,706 in 2017.
- In February 2018, 27.3 percent of the applicants passed the California Bar Examination, which is lower than in February 2017 when 34.5 percent passed. In July 2018, the overall pass rate was 40.7 percent, a lower pass rate than in July 2017, when 49.6 percent passed.
- The First-Year Law Students' Examination was administered to 608 law students (326 in June, 282 in October), which was less than the 753 applicants who took it in 2017. Seven hundred and twenty three (723) law students filed applications in 2018, compared to 907 who filed in 2017.
- In June 2018, 19.3 percent of the applicants passed the First-Year Exam, which is lower than June 2017 when 22.3 percent of the applicants passed. In October 2018, the overall pass rate was 20.6 percent, a higher pass rate than in October 2017, when 19.5 percent passed. Overall, the number of First-Year exam enrollees is decreasing from year to year.
- In 2018, the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) considered 42 appeals filed by applicants with disabilities requesting testing accommodations or seeking modification of testing accommodations already granted, compared to 55 appeals filed in 2017.

### ***Moral Character Determination Activities***

- Seven thousand, two hundred and sixty two (7,262) moral character determination and extension applications were received from applicants seeking admission to practice law in California in 2018. The number of applications is more than the 6,947 received in 2017.

■ The number of investigation reports reviewed by the Committee decreased in 2018, as 183 reports were reviewed compared to the 223 reviewed in 2017. During 2017, 149 informal conferences were held with moral character determination applicants, compared to 175 that were held in 2017. The number of applicants receiving adverse moral character determinations decreased to 19 in 2018 compared to 39 in 2017.

#### ***Law School Regulation Activities***

■ Twenty one (21) law school reports were considered by the Committee in 2018, which included reports on visitations to the law schools in connection with their continued registration or accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners, major change requests submitted by the law schools and notices of noncompliance compared to 18 law school reports in 2017.